

RESET YOUR LIFE

Start your 2010 with 11 ways
to improve yourself inside and
out. Wasn't that easy? **24-25**

Mo
JANUA

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New celeb watcher
weighs in with gossip,
'Gossip Girl' **30**

Economy sending
young adults
back home **7**

Will Bears' win
save Lovie? **12**

Fight the freeze with fun! **17**

txtable

Aye, aye caption

Text us a funny caption for the photo at right and we'll print the best in RedEye. Text the word "**caption**" followed by your brief caption and your name to **87708**. Good luck!



LAST WEEK'S WINNING CAPTION
'Lady Gaga's brother, Brad Romance.'
 —Sebastian Pinon



2do

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19 15

TODAY'S FORECAST

Mostly cloudy, chance of flurries. Great.



TUE.

21 14

Cloudy, cold.



WED.

23 16

More clouds & cold.



THU.

22 10

It's still #@\$% cold!



FRI.

16 10

Ditto.

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Mars attacks

Tricky terrain on 4th rock from the sun leaves roving robot stuck in its tracks

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Spirit has always been the unluckier of NASA's twin Mars rovers.

Just weeks after landing in a Martian crater in 2004, it went haywire and transmitted gibberish to Earth. Engineers eventually nursed it back to health.

As if the near-death experience wasn't enough, Spirit was upstaged early on by its twin Opportunity, which landed in a geologic gold mine and was the first to determine that the frigid, dusty planet possessed a wetter past.

Bad luck has fallen again on Spirit. As the workhorse rover marked its sixth year on the red planet Sunday, it found itself stuck in a sand trap, perhaps forever. The six-wheel robot geologist has been in jams before, but this is the worst predicament yet.

With Martian winter arriving in several months, Spirit may not have enough power to keep going unless scientists can point the solar-powered rover toward the sun.

Spirit "has always been our drama queen," chief scientist Steve Squyres of Cornell University said.

The latest misfortune occurred in April when Spirit, driving backward because of a lame wheel, broke through the crusty ground like a person falling through a frozen pond and became bogged in fluffy sand. Little progress has been made to free Spirit since.

NASA was dealt a major setback recently when another wheel appeared to have stopped moving, leaving Spirit with only four working wheels to plot its great escape.

"With only four driving wheels, it doesn't look good," project manager John Callas of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said.



This image provided by NASA shows the surface of Mars as seen from Spirit. **AP, NASA FILE**

It's been a particularly rough year for Spirit. Besides getting stuck in a sand rut, it suffered sporadic bouts of amnesia and other woes including sudden computer reboots.

Though the prognosis of getting Spirit out looks bleak, scientists are not ready to give up yet. But if they exhaust all escape options, they will switch to Plan B and try to tilt the rover to the north where it can get more sunshine to keep running so that it can continue to do science in one spot.

"If we can't get the rover unstuck, it will become a Mars lander," Callas said.

Unlike a rover, which performs science experiments as it roams, a lander studies its surroundings while stationary.

MEET THE WORKHORSES

Originally designed as a three-month mission, Spirit and Opportunity have operated past their warranty. Since Spirit landed on Mars on Jan. 3, 2004, followed by Opportunity three weeks later, the rovers have driven a total of more than 16 miles, cresting hills and peering into craters.

Police: TV show blew suspect's cover

Associated Press

MIAMI A secretive motel guest in the Florida Keys checked in under a fake name, paid in cash, stockpiled canned food and insisted on cleaning his own room. He even covered his car—all an attempt, authorities said, to elude police after he was accused of gunning down four relatives at Thanksgiving dinner.



Merhige

But Paul Merhige's cover was blown when the motel owners recognized him in a preview for "America's Most Wanted" on Saturday night.

Melinda Pfaff told The Associated Press on Sunday that she and her husband, Paul, rarely saw Merhige during his four-week stay at their Edgewater Lodge on Long Key. He had checked in Dec. 2, a few days after the shootings, using the name "John Baca" and a false address.

His request for privacy didn't seem odd on an island chain known for its eccentric residents, she said.

"He said he would wash all his own sheets and towels. He said I didn't need to go in there," she said. "That's happened before."

Merhige was booked early Sunday at the Palm Beach County jail without bond on four charges of murder.

He was accused of gunning down his twin sisters, a 79-year-old aunt and a 6-year-old cousin at a home where 16 relatives had gathered for the holiday in Jupiter, an affluent community about 90 miles north of Miami.

Merhige's arrest late Saturday ended a month-long manhunt that included billboards and flyers with his image. Police at one point thought he may have fled to Michigan, where he had been treated by a psychiatrist.

Burglars win award for eliminating selves from gene pool

Chicago Tribune

The people who compile the annual Darwin Awards say 2009 was a busy year for stupidity, and last week awarded the year's top prize for fatal poor judgment.

For the uninitiated, the Darwin Awards are named in honor of Charles Darwin, father

of evolution, to "commemorate those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it," its organizers say. It's usually posthumous.

The winner for 2009 was a rare Double Darwin, says Wendy Northcutt of the Darwin Awards, and is awarded for a crime gone awry

in Belgium.

On Sept. 26, a pair of would-be thieves hatched a plan to withdraw cash from an ATM machine by using dynamite.

"They overestimated the quantity of dynamite needed for the explosion," the citation notes dryly. "The blast demolished the building

the bank was housed in."

Rescue workers rushed one bomb burglar to the hospital, where he died on arrival.

They assumed the second got away until finding his body in the rubble hours later. No one else was in the building at the time of the blast.

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**page
four**

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ritaredeye@tribune.com

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Book 'em: Now read this (please)

Okay, so I wrote this book, right? And now it's getting published. And this is the culmination of a lifelong dream. Yes, and I'm insanely, wildly happy that this is happening, but here's the thing: I'm pretty sure I misused the word "interrogatively" on page 187. I also think I left out a comma.

What does "interrogatively" even mean you ask? I don't know! I have no clue. At the time, I'm pretty sure I was thinking, "Oh, well, no worries. There's no way anyone is ever going to read this, so what the hell. I'll toss out this awesome word that I can't even spell without Microsoft Word Thesaurus telling me what it means, and hey, I can't even really spell it without spellcheck."

So here I find myself, about to birth this tome—my masterwork—into the world with words I didn't even know the meaning of, and a semicolon totally masking a sentence that doesn't make any coherent sense on page 246.

Also, what is a "gerund?" I made a joke about a "gerund" but that's because I thought it was a small barnyard critter not unlike a domesticated muskrat. Everyone now informs me this is not the case.

Also, this book is about all these people I know. This is called non-fiction, and it basically means that you explain how completely freaking weird your friends are, and then take credit for being the first one of you to write it down. For instance, my friend Ian once peed straight into the air while he was asleep, and it was the funniest thing I've ever seen in my life. Now I've gotten paid money to write about it, and I agree that makes no sense whatsoever.

My point being, I should win the National Book Award.

So anyway, I've basically stopped sleeping because it's now my job to freak out 36 hours a day about what will become of this book and if it's any good at all and if I'm a total phony playing at a grand charade and if Ian is going to punch me in the face when he sees me next because I wasn't supposed to tell anyone about that whole peeing straight into the air while passed out thing.

Really, there are only two possibilities in that regard. Either all my friends will never talk to me again or they will begrudgingly admit that I was smart to write all that stuff down, and thus take the American memoir to the next level. I can't wait to find out which one it is.

You should buy this book when it comes out in two months is what I'm saying—especially if you're interested in the mechanics of directly-into-the-air urination. I promise the book has many other cool things like that.

Interrogatively, it will make these gerund varmints sorry they ever met me. **STEPHEN MARKLEY IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.**

***I've basically
stopped
sleeping
because it's
now my job to
freak out 36
hours a day
about what will
become of this
book and if it's
any good at all.***



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Natasha Giraldo (right) and her mother Kathleen Ustick stand near Giraldo's pile of belongings Tuesday in the garage of their Roselle home. Giraldo moved back in with her mother in June after accumulating \$48,000 in credit card debt.

LANE CHRISTIANSEN/TRIBUNE

South Side commuters question train policy

Chicago Tribune

South Side commuters know from experience that they can board Metra's Electric District trains but not those of the South Shore Line, even though both lines use the same tracks and stop at some of the same stations.

Under a peculiarity of Chicago's mass-transit system, inbound South Shore trains aren't allowed to pick up passengers—a long-standing policy that recently drew fire from activists who see it as an example of a disparity in public transportation.

Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation (SOUL) contends that the South Side has the highest population density in the city but the longest commute times because it is underserved by mass transit.

One answer, the group says, is to get equal access to both Metra Electric and South Shore trains, which would give people more options in getting to jobs and schools.

SOUL backs legislation introduced by state Sen. Kwame Raoul (D-Hyde Park) that would require commuter rail trains to stop and allow passengers to board and exit at all commuter rail stations.

The group believes that the South Shore's policy of not picking up passengers in Chicago on inbound trains is discriminatory.

Raoul agrees, saying South Siders often suspect that residents of Indiana and the south suburbs have better access to downtown and its jobs than they do.

"It's got to be frustrating to watch people from another state commute to your downtown area easier than you can, when you are paying taxes in the state," Raoul said.

South Shore and Metra officials insist that isn't the case. The Indiana-based South Shore has operated on the Electric District tracks for decades in an agreement with Metra, which bought the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad in 1987.

Under its lease, South Shore trains westbound from Gary or Michigan City, Ind., for example, are allowed to drop off passengers at a few Chicago stations. But the line cannot pick up riders at these stations and bring them to Van Buren or Millennium stations, since that would be considered stealing Metra's customers.



Futures on hold

1 in 10 young adults say bad economy has forced them to move in with parents

Chicago Tribune

Natasha Giraldo shoved her possessions into half of her mother's garage this June.

She quit her full-time teaching gig and moved back to Roselle to be closer to her nieces, or so she told her mother at the time. When September rolled around and she still hadn't found a new job, Giraldo confessed she had racked up \$48,000 in credit card debt, largely in the six years she lived in Florida. And she had to acknowledge she couldn't make it on her own.

What was supposed to be a temporary stay looks like it may be extended to next fall.

Giraldo, 33, is part of a bumper crop of young adults who have sought their old bedrooms as a recession-era refuge, according to a recent Pew Research Center study. While the increase in so-called boomerang kids seems a rational response to the financial slump, the study found young adults also are putting their lives on hold during this downturn.

One in 10 adults between the ages of 18 and 34 said the poor economy has forced them to move back in with mom and dad, according to Pew. In addition to those who have moved home, 12 percent scurried to find a roommate to scale down living expenses.

Young adults are altering their behavior in other ways too. About 15 percent of adults younger than 35 say they have postponed getting married because of the recession, according to Pew. Not only can they not afford a big wedding, but they don't have the money to buy a house or take care of a child. Fourteen percent of young adults say they have put off having a baby.

"They are delaying important decisions, perhaps indefinitely.

GRIM STATISTICS

Young adults are struggling to find work in a job market of diminished pay and opportunities. When they find work, they often aren't earning enough to live independently. Only 46.1 percent of 16- to 24-year-olds are employed, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the smallest share recorded since the government began collecting such data in 1948.

We hope it's temporarily, but that's contingent upon the economy improving," said Richard Morin, a senior editor at Pew and the study's author. "These aren't slackers. These are people who are in transition, and their lives are on hold."

The survey of more than 1,000 adults was taken nationwide in October. It was combined with Census Bureau data to show that while the recession has touched Americans of all ages, it was been especially hard on young adults. Similar proportional drops in young adults living alone happened during or immediately after the recessions of 2001 and 1982, the researchers found.

Parents who have adult children under their roofs shouldn't expect them to leave soon, said Morin, who expects the return to multi-generational households will last at least another year.

"Young adults are the first to feel the pain of a bad economy and the last to feel the benefits of a recovery," said David Morrison, president of Twentysomething Inc., a young adult consulting firm. "They are at the age that has the least job security. They are the most vulnerable in this market."

Officials: Woman died of stab wounds, cuts

A 62-year-old woman was found dead in her South Side home Saturday afternoon, the apparent victim of a home invasion, police said.



Fulgium

The Cook County medical examiner's office and public records identified the victim as Joyce Fulgium, of the 11000 block of South Lowe Avenue, and found today she died of multiple stab and incise wounds.

The examiner's office did not have information about the time she was declared dead. Public records indicate she was 62 years old.

The incident happened about 4:15 p.m. in the 11000 block of South Lowe Avenue in the Roseland neighborhood, according to police News Affairs Officer John Mirabelli. According to police, the door to the residence was kicked in and a number of items were taken, including the victim's 1998 Jeep Wrangler.

A relative found the front door with signs of forced entry and called police, Mirabelli said. A close friend said although she lives near Fulgium, she had not seen her since Christmas

Day, which was unusual, and the friend noticed several days ago that Fulgium's Jeep was not parked in her driveway.

Fulgium showed signs of blunt trauma to the head, but an autopsy today determined she died of stab and incise wounds, authorities said.

Officers from the Calumet District pulled over someone driving Fulgium's Jeep Wrangler near 108th Street and Wallace Avenue on a traffic stop after police began investigating and took two people into custody, Mirabelli said.

Calumet Area detectives are currently questioning the two "persons of interest" about the incident. No one has been charged.



The home in the 11000 block of S. Lowe Avenue in Roseland where Joyce Fulgium was killed during a home invasion. **MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE**

Slain woman's family makes public plea

The family of a woman who was shot and killed outside a New Year's Eve party called Sunday for her ex-husband, who is considered as a "person of interest" in the case, to turn himself in to police.

Police have asked for the public's help in locating Jerry "Shorty" Hudson, whom police said made several threatening remarks to Melissa Bridgewater, 45, just before she was fatally wounded from an "execution-style shooting" Friday morning.

Police said Saturday that Hudson's family had not been not cooperating with investigators, and may be concealing his whereabouts.

"I mean, turn yourself in, come on now," Bridgewater's 29-year-old son Lavar Bridgewater said Sunday. "If [his family] knows something they need to come forward."

But, some of Hudson's family said today that they have been cooperating with law enforcement and did not know where Hudson had gone.

"We are not concealing him," said Hudson's niece Sheila Fleming. "We want him to turn himself in ... just come out and answer the questions they have for you."

Fleming, 40, said law enforcement officials had come to Hudson's mother's house twice on Saturday and both times she had allowed them to search her property.

Hudson, 48, whose last known address was in Bolingbrook, initially was not considered dangerous. But Saturday, Oak Brook police released a statement describing him as "armed and dangerous." Although no arrest warrant has been issued for Hudson, police warned people that if they see him they should call 911 and should not approach him.



Bill Moser of Weeling hits from the fairway Sunday at Cog Hill in Lemont. The 47th annual Eskimo Open was played under sunny skies, little wind and temperatures in the teens. **CHUCK BERMAN/TRIBUNE**

Bitter cold likely to last 7-10 days

The Chicago area could see subnormal temperatures for at least the next week to 10 days, including single digits to below-zero readings in some suburbs.

By late afternoon Sunday, temperatures had risen to the upper teens at both Chicago airports, hitting 17 degrees at O'Hare and 18 degrees at Midway by 4 p.m., with a wind chill index of about 3 above zero at O'Hare. The mercury hit 23 degrees at Northerly Island and Gary at 4 p.m., making them the weather stations in the Chicago area to get out of the teens.

Because of the cold and winds, lake effect snow will continue in northwest Indiana and southwest lower Michigan for at least the next few days. Since last Thursday, some portions of that area will have seen accumulations of up to 2 feet.

Temperatures will rise slightly midweek but will remain very cold and below normal, perhaps reaching a high of 23 degrees on Wednesday at O'Hare.

But temperatures will plunge again, with below-zero readings possible again by Friday.

Officials ID body from trunk

A 27-year-old man whose body was found in the trunk of a car Saturday in Englewood had sustained a fatal gunshot wound to his head, officials said today. The man was identified Sunday as Raul Barajas of the 2800 block of West 21st Street police said.

An autopsy determined the man had been shot in the head and his death was classified a homicide.

Off-duty officer involved in crash

An off-duty police sergeant involved in a car accident in which a 65-year-old woman died Saturday is not expected to be cited, officials said Sunday. An autopsy conducted by the Cook County medical examiner's office determined that Carol Jacob of the 11200 block of South Sawyer Avenue died from her injuries from the accident and ruled her death accidental.

Two men shot in Chatham

Two 21-year-old men were shot Sunday as they sat in a car on the 7700 block of South Champlain Avenue in Chatham, said Chicago Police News Affairs Officer Veejay Zala, citing preliminary information.

Initial information was that both were taken to area hospitals with serious injuries, one to Stroger Hospital in serious to critical condition, Zala said.

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AP PHOTO

Tallest building

1 Dubai is set to open the world's tallest building amid tight security on Monday, celebrating the tower as a bold feat on the world stage despite the city state's shaky financial footing.

Cheney attack

2 White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan says former Vice President Dick Cheney is intentionally misstating President Obama's terrorism-fighting policies or is ignorant of the facts when he criticizes the White House.

Asleep at the switch

3 Police say a driver passed out in his car at a Tennessee gas station while a batch of methamphetamine was cooking in the back seat. A worker at the gas station in Murfreesboro called police on New Year's Day.

Flights grounded

4 Authorities were searching for a man who walked through a screening checkpoint exit into the secure side of a terminal Sunday night at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. Flights were grounded and passengers being re-screened, an air safety official said.

\$2.4M in donations

5 Evangelical pastor Rick Warren's plea for donations to fill a \$900,000 deficit at his Southern California megachurch brought in \$2.4 million, Warren announced to cheers during a sermon at the church Saturday.

Screening ramped up

Passengers flying into the United States from Nigeria, Yemen and other "countries of interest" will be subject to enhanced screening techniques, such as body scans and pat-downs, the Transportation Security Administration said Sunday. Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria also are on the list of countries.

Deadly avalanches

6 At least four people were killed in avalanche incidents Sunday in the Swiss Alps. A group of skiers was hit by an avalanche in the Diemtig Valley about 25 miles south of Bern. In a separate, a man was killed by an avalanche near Verbier.

U.S., Britain shut down embassies in Yemen

A Yemeni soldier stands guard in front of the U.S. Embassy in San'a in 2008. AP FILE



7 **SAN'A, Yemen** The U.S. and Britain locked up their embassies in Yemen on Sunday after fresh threats from al-Qaida, and the White House expressed alarm at the terror group's expanded reach in the poor Arab nation where an offshoot apparently ordered the Christmas Day plot against a U.S. airliner.

President Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, John Brennan, cited "indications al-Qaida is planning to carry out an attack against a target" in the capital, possibly the embassy, and estimated the group had several hundred members in Yemen. Security reasons led Britain to act too; it was not known when the embassies would reopen.

The U.S. is worried about the spread of terrorism in Yemen, a U.S. ally and aid recipient, Brennan said, but doesn't consider the country a second front with Afghanistan and Pakistan in the fight against terrorism.

As to whether U.S. troops might be sent to Yemen, Brennan replied: "We're not talking about that at this point at all." He pledged to provide the Yemeni government with "the wherewithal" to take down al-Qaida.

Britain and the United States are assisting a counterterrorism police unit in Yemen as fears grow about the increasing threat of international terrorism originating from the country.

The Obama administration claims the suspect in the plot against the Detroit-bound plane was trained and armed by the al-Qaida affiliate in Yemen.

Brennan blamed a series of what he called lapses and human errors in U.S. intelligence and security defenses for allowing a Nigerian man to board the plane with explosives.

Passengers and crew subdued the suspect when he tried to set off the explosion as the aircraft approached Detroit on Christmas Day.

He succeeded only in starting a fire on himself.

Fox, Time Warner reach deal on fees

8 **LOS ANGELES** Football fans and "American Idol" devotees can breathe a sigh of relief. Fox and Time Warner Cable have reached a deal in principle that will keep the network on the cable provider after Fox threatened to pull the plug over a fee dispute.

Friday's agreement, which included Bright House Networks, ended a week of public sparring that had some viewers worried they'd miss Friday night's Sugar Bowl, Saturday's Cotton Bowl and Sunday's professional football lineup, as well as an array of other programming.

Fox had been threatening to force Time Warner Cable and Bright House to drop the Fox broadcast signal from 14 of its TV stations and half a dozen of its cable channels as a contract expired at midnight Thursday.

But signals were extended into Friday as talks continued.





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sports

BEARS 37, LIONS 23

Grand finale

Bears look impressive in final game, but is it enough to save Lovie Smith's job?

Associated Press

The Bears were at their best early and late.

The Bears doomed a promising season, though, by losing eight of 10 games in between.

Jay Cutler matched a career high for a second straight week with four touchdown passes, leading the Bears to a 37-23 win Sunday over the Detroit Lions.

"It just shows that we can play good football," Cutler said.

It might not be enough to save Lovie Smith's job.

The Bears (7-9) failed to make the playoffs for the third straight season after reaching the Super Bowl under Smith.

"Every year changes happen, we realize that's a part of it," Smith said. "We're enjoying this right now."

When the Bears hit rock bottom this season two weeks ago against the Baltimore Ravens and fell to 5-9, general manager Jerry Angelo shot down a report indicating Smith would be back for a seventh season.

The Bears owe Smith \$11 million for the next two seasons, and Angelo insisted money won't affect the decision.

"All the speculation about change is going to come, and we know that," tight end Desmond Clark said. "If it does, we'll deal with it. But I will say, we have great coaches."

Jim Schwartz will be back for a second season to sort through the mess he inherited in Detroit.

NFC NORTH	W	L	PCT
Minnesota	12	4	.750
Green Bay	11	5	.688
BEARS	7	9	.438
Detroit	2	14	.125

with another coach, and that's unacceptable."

The Lions had a shot to beat the Bears, but they simply couldn't stop Cutler.

"We had a lot of chances to do good things, and we continued to make mistakes that cost us," Schwartz said.

Cutler threw a 1-yard pass to a wide-open Clark to give the Bears a 27-20 lead midway through the fourth quarter.

Daunte Culpepper overthrew Calvin Johnson on the ensuing drive, and Detroit settled for a field goal and a four-point deficit.

The Bears then sealed the victory with Cutler's second TD pass to Devin Aromashodu, who scored the game-winning TD on Monday night against Minnesota.

Cutler was 22 of 36 for 276 yards and didn't throw an interception against Detroit for the second time this season and for the fourth game this season.

Cutler's arrival in the offseason trade with Denver generated hope for success, but his NFL-high 26 interceptions led to a lackluster season for Chicago.

"We've got to get that other number down," Cutler said. "It's the bottom line."

"This isn't about coaching," kicker Jason Hanson said. "We went 0-16 with one coach and 2-14



Fan runs onto Ford Field

Associated Press

A fan ran onto the field as the Bears were on defense against the Detroit Lions and made hand gestures toward an official.

He ran the length of the field and juked an official Sunday before going down in the end zone. Ford Field security personnel escorted him off the field.

The Lions had a third-and-1 from their 36 when play resumed late in the first quarter. Detroit coach Jim Schwartz was livid, believ-

ing the ball was moved. After the Lions were stopped and punted, Schwartz had an animated discussion with referee Jerome Boger and three officials on the sideline during the ensuing timeout.

"The first time I looked, it was really, really close to a first down," Schwartz said. "Then after the fan ran out on the field, the ball had moved back half a yard. It didn't matter, though—we could have needed an inch or a full yard and we wouldn't have made it."

**SUNDAY
SCORES**

ATLANTA 20
TAMPA BAY 10

SAN FRANCISCO 28
ST. LOUIS 6

N.Y. GIANTS 7
MINNESOTA 44

PITTSBURGH 30
MIAMI 24

NEW ENGLAND 27
HOUSTON 34

JACKSONVILLE 17
CLEVELAND 23

NEW ORLEANS 10
CAROLINA 23

INDIANAPOLIS 7
BUFFALO 30



Bears head coach Lovie Smith (center) watches his defense against the Detroit Lions in the fourth quarter Sunday. The Bears beat the Lions 37-23. JOSÉ M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE PHOTO



Umpire Carl Paganelli tries to catch a fan who ran onto the field Sunday during the Lions-Bears game. AP



MONDAY MOURNING | BY BAG BOY



Bears fans near the end of the game Sunday against the Lions. The Bears beat the Lions 37-23. JOSÉ M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Two wins don't make it all right

The Bears are undefeated in 2010. They have won two straight games. Jay Cutler has thrown eight touchdown passes the past two weeks.

Big deal.

All that came against a Minnesota team with little to play for and an absolutely embarrassing Detroit Lions.

Apparently, though, that's all right for some people.

I've already heard—or read on blogs, I should say—people suggest that offensive coordinator Ron Turner should be back or that Lovie Smith's job has been saved.

Reality check time. The Bears finished 7-9. They did not make the playoffs. They did not make the playoffs last year or the year before. They looked pathetic against teams that are actually good.

Don't let these last two wins confuse you. The Bears need major changes. They need offensive line help. They need a back-up running back—if not a starter. They need a big-play receiver. They need help in the secondary. Most of all, they need a new coach.

They don't need fans satisfied with mediocrity. We sent that to Denver.



Fred Jackson of the Buffalo Bills stiff-arms Kelvin Hayden of the Indianapolis Colts in Sunday's game. GETTY IMAGES

Snow job

Now this is how football is meant to be played.

Buffalo and Indianapolis faced off against each other and Mother Nature thanks to a sometimes whiteout-like Lake Erie-effect snow.

It was the Colts, however, who pulled off the disappearing act in their second straight loss. The No. 1 playoff seed pulled its starters for the second week in a row, leaving the backups to deal with Old Man Winter.



instant replay

redeyesports @tribune.com

The good, the bad and the ugly this week in the NFL.

STUD OF THE WEEK

Fred Jackson

Speaking of Buffalo, Bills running back Fred Jackson (above) did his best snow plow impression, running for 212 yards and catching a touchdown pass.

DUD OF THE WEEK

Donovan McNabb

With a division title on the line, McNasty came up with just passing 223 yards and no touchdowns. He also lost a fumble.

THUD OF THE WEEK

Wes Welker

When he left with a knee injury, the Patriots lost their 122-catch, 1,300-yard receiver. Those just don't grow on trees.

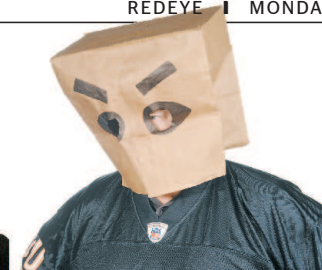
BRONCOS K.O.'D

Early in the season, much was made of Kyle Orton (left) and the Broncos' strong start—including in this column. Looks like the Bears have the last laugh as K.O. and Denver were knocked out of the playoffs by Kansas City. Yes, the Chiefs. Ouch.

TENNESSEE 17	WASHINGTON 20	BALTIMORE 21	KANSAS CITY 44	GREEN BAY 33	PHILADELPHIA 0	CINCINNATI 0
SEATTLE 13	SAN DIEGO 23	OAKLAND 13	DENVER 24	ARIZONA 7	DALLAS 24	N.Y. JETS 37

Hello, 2010

New year, same old Five on Five crew.
Play along with them at redychicago.com/5on5.



TOPIC	JIMMY GREENFIELD jgreenfield@chicagonow.com	LEO EBERSOLE lebersole@tribune.com	ELLIOTT SERRANO redychicago.com/geektome	MARC SILVERMAN redyesports@tribune.com	BAG BOY redyesports@tribune.com
1 Sum up the Bears' season in five words or less.	Cutler was not the savior.	Can we play Detroit again?	Jay Cutler: not so superstar.	Loveless and soon Loveless?	Let's just forget about it.
2 If the Bears game had been blacked out I wouldn't be shocked. Clearly, the Bears telecasts have a drinking problem.	... TV would have eliminated the 506 th -ugliest thing about Detroit.	... it would be followed by memory loss—of the whole season.	... Mayor Daley would've charged \$4.25 per hour to watch at his place.	... it wouldn't have been because I threw a brick through my TV this time.
3 What did that fan on the field during the Bears game Sunday have to say to the officials?	"You simply must see 'Up In The Air' but 'Nine' was beyond disappointing."	"Is that a flag in your pocket or are you just happy to—oh, c'mon, not the Taser!"	"I'm in line to be the next head coach and just wanted to take a closer look."	Don't know what he said, but he sure ran faster than Matt Forte.	"Please, get me out of this dump and let the Bears take me back to Chicago!"
4 What's the secret to the Bulls' four-game winning streak?	They begin all games by taking a whiff of the Blackhawks' equipment bags.	Derrick Rose has put on the Iron Man suit and pressed the "engage missiles" button.	Switching rosters with the WNBA. Those gals can play!	Vinny Del Negro was locked in the UC's electrical shed.	The holidays bring out the best in them—unlike my family.
5 Why is David Beckham expressing regrets about the nomadic nature of his soccer career?	To force a trade.	Sounds like someone finally saw "Up In the Air." Stop toying with our emotions, Clooney.	He ended up in "Who Cares About Beckham Anymore Land."	Doesn't have the texting ability of Tiger.	He's positioning himself for a \$500 million deal next time.

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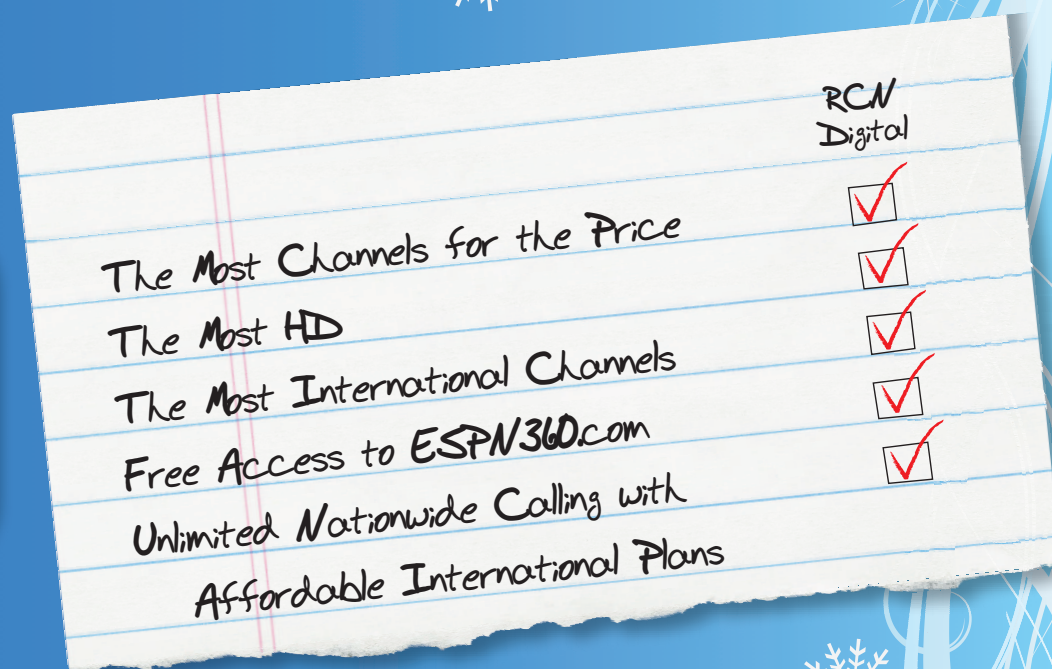
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CAMPUS CRAWL



Georgetown's Greg Monroe (right) drives around DePaul's Mac Koshwal. **AP**

NO. 13 GEORGETOWN 67, DEPAUL 50 DePaul extends Big East woes

A sputtering DePaul offense ignited too late Sunday. Trailing No. 13 Georgetown 53-36 with 7 minutes 18 seconds to play, the Blue Demons cut the gap to 11 points, but couldn't get any closer and finally succumbed 67-50 before 8,595 fans at Allstate Arena.

The loss was the 21st straight in regular-season Big East play for DePaul (7-7, 0-2). After scoring 12 first-half points, Mac Koshwal closed with 16 points and 8 rebounds while Will Walker added nine.

"I know it's the same old song, but it is hard to keep defending when you don't score," DePaul coach Jerry Wainwright said. It was Georgetown's ninth straight victory over the Blue Demons.

E. MICHIGAN 59, CHICAGO ST. 47

Brandon Bowdry had game highs of 23 points and nine rebounds Sunday to lead Eastern Michigan past Chicago St. 59-47.

Carl Montgomery and Christian Wall scored 10 points apiece to lead the Cougars (5-10), who shot only 34.7 percent (17 of 49) and missed all 10 of their 3-pointers.

SUNDAY'S OTHER RESULTS

- » Wichita St. 81, Bradley 69
- » Illinois St. 68, S. Illinois 61



The Blackhawks' Marian Hossa's goes for a goal in the 3rd period.
SCOTT STRAZZANTE/TRIBUNE

Hawks batter Ducks

All of 22 seconds into things Sunday, gloves and sticks burst into the air and scattered across the ice, as if someone dropped a live grenade into the faceoff circle.

Thus the Blackhawks' Dustin Byfuglien and Anaheim's Troy Bodie christened the teams' meeting at the United Center not by breaking bottles but by attempting to break each other's face. And that was also about as tangled up as the Hawks were all night.

After a few fits and fists at the outset, a 5-2 victory over the Ducks was an exercise in dominance in all facets, from Antti Niemi barely missing a fifth shutout to the Hawks producing four goal-scorers and 12 players with at least one point.

"That's what's great about great teams—one line doesn't score, the next line scores," said Hawks winger Marian Hossa, who snapped out of a funk

with two third-period goals.

"That's what we've got going right now. For a while it was the No. 1 line scoring all the time, now we've got more guys involved and we just keep going."

Niemi had the post as an ally on a couple Anaheim shots but made more than his share of stellar stops. Two goals by the Ducks' Petteri Nokelainen in the last four minutes spoiled the shutout—which would have tied Niemi for the league lead in just 13 games played—but not the night.

"Doesn't matter to me," Niemi said of losing the whitewash. His effort until those late tallies, however, certainly mattered.

"Antti made some big stops, some high-quality saves and gave us a chance to get into the game," Hawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "He shut the door right off the bat."



«Shania Twain carried the Olympic torch into Hollinger Park in Ontario, cheered on by thousands of parka-clad fans who turned out in minus-16 temperatures Friday night. "I feel proud, very proud," Twain said. "It's a highlight of my life."

"I'd have loved to have stayed at Manchester United for my whole career and never gone anywhere else but it just wasn't meant to be."
—Soccer star **David Beckham** to BBC Radio on Sunday. Beckham was sold to Real Madrid after his relationship soured with manager Alex Ferguson in 2003.

» White Sox starter Gavin Floyd got married Saturday in the Clearwater, Fla., area. Floyd signed a four-year, \$15.5 million contract in March, providing security for the 26-year-old pitcher. And probably a pretty nice wedding.

» Colin Montgomerie on Tiger Woods: "I think the mystique has gone." » USC self-imposes postseason ban on men's hoops team in Mayo fallout



watch dog

WHIZZER
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The Bulls are undefeated in 2010. It's life's little victories that keep me going. Here now, my TV picks.



NBA
Bulls vs. Oklahoma City
7 p.m. *CSN*

Can the Bulls bring the thunder and win five in a row? If so, lightning might strike.



FIESTA BOWL
Boise St. vs. TCU
7:15 p.m. *Fox*

This would be a lot more fun to watch if BSU brought its blue field with them.



WRESTLING
TNA Wrestling Impact!
7 p.m. *Spike*

Hulk Hogan debuts. I hope he doesn't show his "T" and "A."

"My grandmother got her teaching degree from NLU in the 1920s. I know she would be proud to hear that I did too. And so did my sisters. My niece. And my husband, Tim. We all got our degrees from NLU."

Kathleen Flowers

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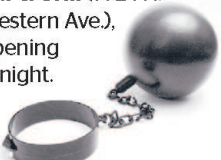



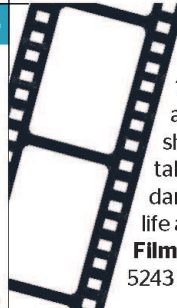


JANUARY SURVIVAL GUIDE

Jump start the year with these hot events and openings

By Rebecca Palmore

January is the longest month. It's also the darkest and one of the coldest, but you don't have to take it lying down. Generate some group heat at these concerts, comedy fests, new bars and events across town.

REBECCA PALMORE IS THE METROMIX EVENTS PRODUCER. RKPALMORE@TRIBUNE.COM

	<p>4</p> <p>Size up Jake Pavelka (left) and his gaggle of gals on ABC's new season of "The Bachelor," premiering tonight. Catch it at Cityscape Bar, 350 W. Mart Plaza Center Drive.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Obey the whip-wielding hostess of Dirty Bingo, taking place tonight at Mad River Bar & Grille, 2909 N. Sheffield Ave.</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Blush at awkward teen love at an advance screening of "Youth in Revolt" at AMC Loews, 600 N. Michigan Ave.</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Roll in the aisles at opening night of the Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival, continuing through Jan. 17 at Theatre Building Chicago, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>Wish Elvis a happy birthday—he'd be 75 today—at Orso's (1401 N. Wells St.) with wine, beer and pizza.</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>Learn how to make stencils for screen printing with the Chicago Urban Art Society (1048 W. 37th St.). Session one starts today.</p> 
<p>10</p> <p>See Tracy Letts' first-ever play, the dark drama "Killer Joe," at Profiles Theater, 4147 N. Broadway. Steppenwolf's Rick Snyder directs.</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Get two specialty wood-fired pies for \$14 at Frasca Pizzeria (3358 N. Paulina St.) all week, plus half-price bottles of wine (Monday only).</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>Warm your core with a Scotch whisky tasting at Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro, 3905 N. Lincoln Ave.</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Hear Johnny Marr and the Cibs, launching the Tomorrow Never Knows music fest at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. Additional shows at Schubas (3159 N. Southport Ave.) through Sunday.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Get your lit fix at Quimby's (1854 W. North Ave.) with writers from local magazine The2ndHand at a new monthly series.</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Check out two new spots aiming to open today: new restaurant-bar Longman & Eagle (2657 N. Kedzie Ave.), from Empty Bottle owners and local brunch chain Orange (738 N. Clark St.).</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Play musical chairs during the Chicago Blues Tour pub crawl to the New Checkerboard Lounge (5201 S. Harper Ct.) and other clubs.</p> 
<p>17</p> <p>Listen to rhyme with reason at Chicago Public Radio's Winter Block Party for Chicago's Hip-Hop Arts at Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>FREE Salute Martin Luther King, Jr., at the Chicago History Museum (1601 N. Clark St.) with the Chicago Chamber Choir and more.</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>Find out how to turn kitchen ingredients into beauty products at Green Spa Night at Greenheart, 1911 W. Division St.</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>Swoon to boleros from Trío Los Primos, playing the Old Town School of Folk Music (4544 N. Lincoln Ave.) as part of a new world music series.</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Show your stripes at new prison-themed watering hole Lockdown Bar & Grill (1024 N. Western Ave.), opening tonight.</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Wine and dine your sweetie at Cyrano's Bistrot (546 N. Wells St.) or any of about 20 spots offering multicourse menus for \$29.10 during Chicago Originals Restaurant Week (Jan. 18-31).</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Cheer on the Chicago Spirit Brigade, kicking off its eighth season, at cabaret-style benefit Big Bang 2010 at Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted St.</p> 
<p>24</p> <p>Go crazy at Local Locos Comedy Showcase with host Lucky Luciano and scores of comics at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, 777 N. Green St.</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>Offer a birthday toast to 18th Century Scottish poet Robert Burns with haggis and Scotch at Drinks Over Dearborn, 650 N. Dearborn St.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>FREE Let local music org Lampo turn you on to a new artist at the Magical Musical Showcase at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Discover the appeal of men in tulle as Les Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo (below) takes the stage at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Drink wine while getting schooled on primates in the Congo at Wine and Wildlife at the Lincoln Park Zoo (2200 N. Cannon Drive).</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>Watch 15 new animated shorts that take on the darker side of life at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark St.</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>FREE Celebrate shrinkage with the Lakeview Polar Bear Club during its ninth annual Polar Plunge into Lake Michigan at Oak Street Beach, 1000 N. Lake Shore Drive.</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Climb 80 flights of stairs inside the Aon Center (200 E. Randolph St.) as part of Kohl's Step Up for Kids.</p>				 <p>Polar Plunge TRIBUNE FILE</p>		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY



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BULL & BEAR

Half-price appetizers and mini-sandwich trios (3-6 p.m.), half-price wings, \$3 Bud Light bottles, \$5 Bloody Marys, \$6 Absolut cocktails and Patron shots; 431 N. Wells St. 312-527-5973.

CORCORAN'S

Half-price appetizers, half-price bottles of wine, \$5 pub burger with fries, \$6 chicken sandwich with fries (11 a.m.-3 p.m.); 1615 N. Wells St. 312-440-0885.

CREW

Half-price appetizers (4-6 p.m.), half-price flatbreads, \$3.75 Peroni pints, \$6 flavored margaritas; 4804 N. Broadway. 773-784-2739.

DISTRICT BAR

Half-price appetizers (3-8 p.m.), half-price margaritas; 170 W. Ontario St. 312-337-3477.

THE FIFTY/50

Half-price appetizers (4-6 p.m.), \$1 domestic bottles; 2047 W. Division St. 773-489-5050.

THE FIRKIN & PHEASANT

Half-price appetizers, \$2.50 Coors Light pints, \$3 Corona and Corona Light bottles; 670 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-327-7040.



FOUR FARTHINGS

Half-price appetizers in the bar 5-7:30 p.m.; 2060 N. Cleveland Ave. 773-935-2060.

THE FRANKLIN TAP

Half-price appetizers with drink purchase (after 5 p.m.), half-price mixed drinks; 325 S. Franklin St. 312-212-3262.

GARRETT RIPLEY'S

Half-price appetizers (5-7 p.m.); 712 N. Clark St. 312-642-2900.

HALSTED HARP

Half-priced appetizers, \$1 High Life and Bud drafts, \$3 well drinks; 2138 N. Halsted St. 773-348-3665.

JET'S PUBLIC HOUSE

Half-price appetizers, \$2 domestic bottles, \$2

well cocktails; 6148 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-792-2440.

MARGE'S STILL

Half-price appetizers (4:30-6 p.m.), \$4 drafts; 1758 N. Sedgwick St. 312-664-9775.

MYSTIC CELT

Half-price appetizers and bottles of wine, \$3.50 Blue Moon and Half Acre pints; 3443 N. Southport Ave. 773-529-8550.

PADDY LONG'S

Half-price appetizers and bottles of wine; 1028 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-290-6988.

RISQUE CAFE

Half-price appetizers (4-7 p.m.), half-price large format beers, \$6 all-you-

can-eat wings; 3419 N. Clark St. 773-525-7711.

SEDGWICK'S

Half-price appetizers (4-7 p.m.), \$7 pizzas, \$15 Coors Light buckets, free pool; 1935 N. Sedgwick St. 312-337-7900.

SIDEBAR GRILLE

Half-price appetizers (3 p.m.), \$4 Bacardi cocktails, \$5 Bacardi Limon bombs, \$12 domestic buckets, trivia 6 p.m.; 221 N. La Salle St. 312-739-3900.

TOONS

Half-price appetizers, \$4 22-ounce Miller Lite drafts, \$3 whiskey shots and Great Lakes pints. No cover; 3857 N. Southport Ave. 773-935-1919.

MONDAY CONCERTS

AKASHA, THE LOWDOWN BRASS BAND, JT AND THE CLOUDS, JC BROOKS AND THE UPTOWN SOUND

7 p.m. \$10. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

CARL WEATHERSBY, J.W. WILLIAMS AND THE CHI-TOWN HUSTLERS

9:30 p.m. \$12. Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted St. 773-477-4646.

CHICAGO CHAMBER MUSICIANS: JASMINE LIN, WENDY WARNER, MENG-CHIEH LIU

12:15 p.m. Free. Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. 312-744-6630.

GRANA' LOUISE AND THE TROUBLEMAKERS

9 p.m. \$8. Blue Chicago at Ohio, 536 N. Clark St. 312-661-0100.

THE GUY KING ORGAN TRIO

7 p.m. \$10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

JIMMY BURNS HOSTS THE JAM

9:30 p.m. \$10. Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash Ave. 312-427-0333.

JOEL PATERSON AND BEAU SAMPLE

8 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801.



MONDAY NIGHT LIVE

7:30 p.m. No cover; \$15 dining purchase required. Petterino's, 150 N. Dearborn St. 312-422-0150.

THE OPPOSITION PARTY

8 p.m. \$7. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9494.

PREGNANT TONGUES,

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8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

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9:30 p.m. Free. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

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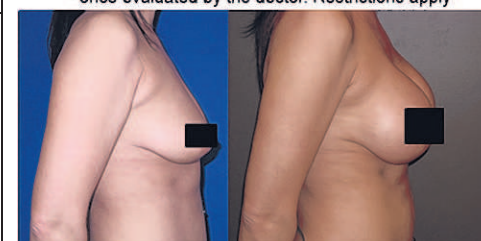
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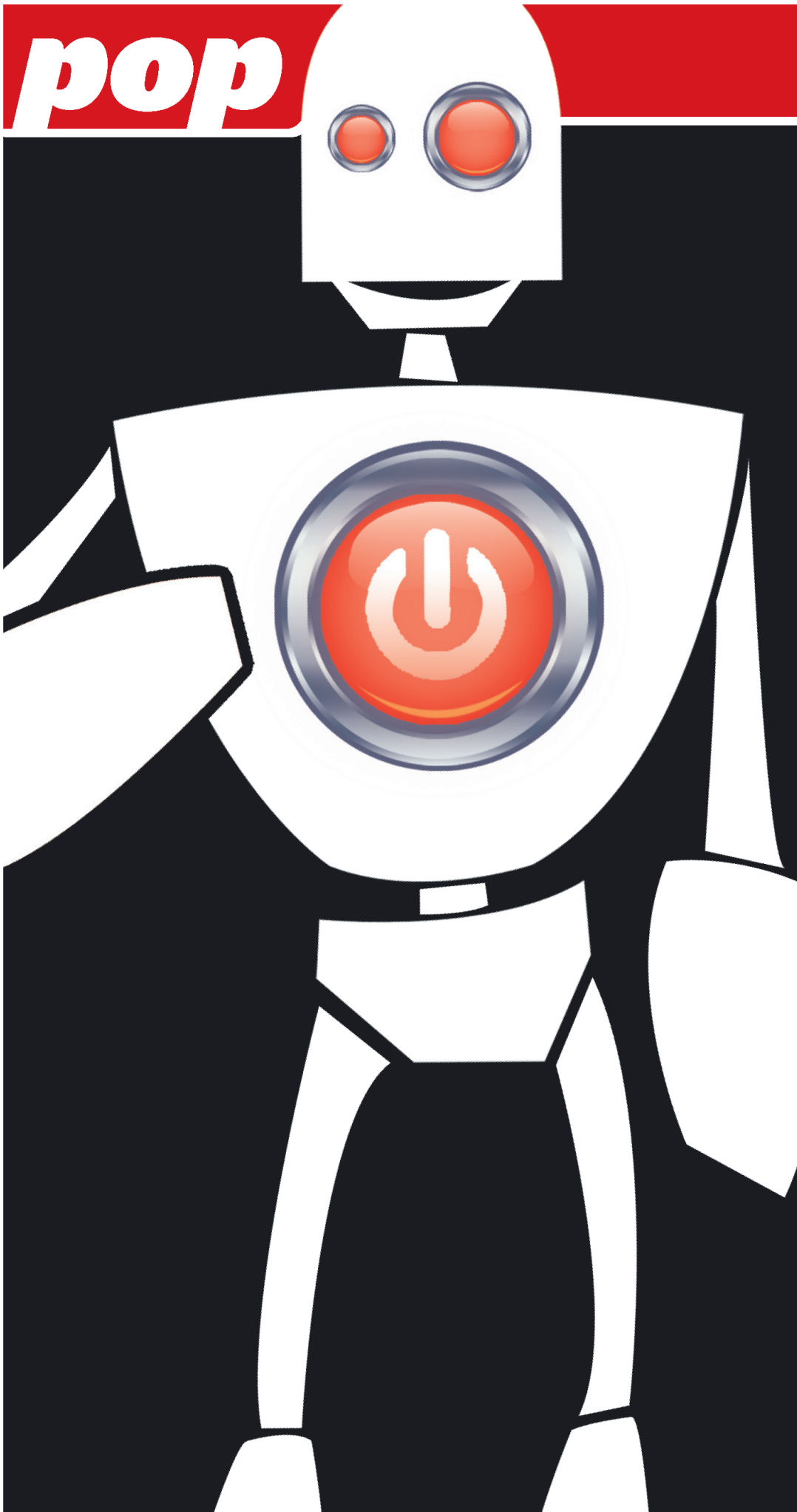
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'05 911 S Cpe Tiptronic	\$51,500
'04 Cayenne	\$20,900

*1.9% APR applies to new Model Year 2009 Porsche models except for the 911 GT2. 1.9% APR available for up to 60-month financing; monthly payment of \$17.48 per \$1,000 financed for 60 months. Payment terms not to exceed 60 months on Approved Credit by Porsche Financial Services, Inc. Does not apply to Porsche Options (balloon) financing. Offer valid through 1/4/10 from participating U.S. Porsche dealers. Specific vehicles and options are subject to availability and your price may vary. For details about costs and terms, call 1-800-Porsche. For additional information, see your participating Porsche dealer or visit www.porscheusa.com.



REBOOT YOURSELF IN 2010

MAKE THOSE RESOLUTIONS STICK BY TAKING ON 11 MANAGEABLE GOALS

By Erin Sarris
FOR REDEYE

Emily Hotz isn't doing New Year's resolutions this year. She's undergoing a New Year's reboot.

From overhauling her work life and vowing a strict commitment to "professional awesomeness" to placing a new focus on connecting with her husband by banning their laptops and iPhones during the evening hours, 2010 is poised to be a year of significant change for the 28-year old Gold Coast resident.

"I am so excited about the opportunity to get our technology use under control," said Hotz, an e-marketing account manager. "While I adore surfing the Web and find it to be a great way to unwind after a long day, being present for my offline life is way more fun."

And she is hardly a stranger to large-scale, life-changing resolutions. Last January, Hotz embraced a new approach to eating, adopting an all-raw vegan diet in hopes of staying slim—with a little help from her friends wheatgrass, flaxseed oil and

enzymes. And she lived to tell about it.

"I like to roll it out with a big bang," she said. "Of course I get overwhelmed, but that's part of the fun of it."

But for those who have less experience with New Year's resolutions, huge changes can often extinguish any newfound willpower and induce a relapse. In fact, a recent survey from business-trend watcher FranklinCovey found that a third of resolution-makers won't even make it until the end of January before saying sayonara to their all-new lifestyle.

So if you're one of many New Year's procrastinators who ushered in 2010 with gusto but still haven't gotten started on your new-you to-do list, don't fret. Experts say change is possible if you break down your big promises into bite-sized morsels to avoid becoming overwhelmed.

By slicing and dicing your grand intentions into manageable pieces, rebooting your life in 2010 can be more attainable (and dare we say easier?) than ever. Try these 11 tips from experts in the areas of health, money, careers, sex and more.

CRAFTING THE PERFECT YOU IN 5 EASY-TO-FOLLOW STEPS

A full-image reboot is tough stuff. Just ask Tiger Woods, whose squeaky-clean rep crashed and burned last month amid reports he cheated on his wife with a bevy of mistresses. But what do you do if you aren't a world-famous athlete with a team of handlers crafting your next move? Even if your image just needs a minor tweak, RedEye has you covered with tips to present yourself in an all-new light in 2010. **ERIN SARRIS / FOR THE REDEYE**



Don't sweat it

Exercise without cardio? Jim Karas, a Lincoln Park-based personal trainer and author of "The Cardio-Free Diet," says running, cycling and spinning do little except make you hungry.

"Excessive exercise is aging to the body," he says. "Excessive eating, which is required to perform so much cardio, is also aging to your body."

He recommends interval-based strength training for weight loss, leaner muscles and optimal calorie and fat burning.



Tailor made success

No need to spend your holiday cash on an all-new wardrobe for 2010 when the expertise of a good tailor can go a long way.

"An inexpensive yet well-tailored outfit is a smarter purchase than an expensive, poorly-tailored suit," says Holly Arndt, a wardrobe consultant with Tom James Co. of Chicago. Score some timeless pieces at a second-hand store, then make them your own by having items custom-tailored to your body type.



In charge of money

Credit cards have a bad rep, but paying with plastic makes for smart savings, says Katie Reisch, a member of the self-help financial group, Smart Cookies.

"We discovered the benefits of going back to an old faithful product called the charge card, where you have to pay off your entire balance at the end of the month," Reisch said. By settling her monthly tab, she avoided interest and scored \$600 in rewards from everyday purchases last year.



Bring sexy back

It may sound counterintuitive, but sometimes having better and more frequent sex can be as easy as taking a night off.

Constance Sheehan, a licensed counselor who specializes in sex and couples' therapy, calls it "No-Pressure Naked Night," where you and your partner spend the night in the buff—with a promise to forgo sex—and then see what the next morning brings. (Spoiler alert: She says most people will break the rules.)



Network the crowd

Your best friends may take you out for a beer if you get laid off, but they likely won't be the ones to land you your next gig.

"It's your best friends' friends or even two or three degrees out that ends up making a big difference," said Jeffrey Sumber, a career counselor based in Chicago. Expand your professional contacts by e-mailing 10 close friends and asking them to forward your resume to one person each.



Old dogs' new tricks

From learning a new language to perfecting your salsa moves to gardening or knitting, learning new skills boosts brain power and builds perseverance that can translate across every area of your life. But you've got to be willing to be a beginner, says Chicago-based life coach Alison Miller. "Brushing up on your ability to learn something from scratch is a skill that can improve every aspect of your life," she says.



It's clean-up time

Skip the matching containers, labels and markers—getting organized is as easy as looking up.

"Go vertical!" says certified professional organizer Amy Trager. Try utilizing most rooms' 8 feet of vertical storage by building higher shelves. And by deciding beforehand how many pieces are reasonable to keep (e.g. "I will only own five pairs of jeans.") there's no excuse to hang onto older items.



Un-pampered chef

In cooking, there's bad simplicity (think mac 'n' cheese with sliced hot dogs) and good simplicity (chicken breast, olive oil, salt and pepper.) Nick Faitage, executive chef of Cooking Fools in Wicker Park, says it's easiest to nix the fancy gadgets and use your intuition instead of a recipe.

"Having every conceivable kitchen gadget can interfere with learning," he says. "Apply common sense and sometimes guess how to [cook] something."



New year, new job

If you're looking to launch a new career path in 2010, don't expect it to be easy, fast or comfortable. "A career is a process that takes time; not something we click on in Craigslist," said Sumber, the career counselor. Set yourself up to thrive in 2010 by taking some time to reflect on the type of job and lifestyle you want—and taking advantage of global shakeups to forge your own path.



Conversationalistic

Miller, the Chicago-based life coach, says keeping a wing man (or woman) around can make you seem more fun. But she advises against using tactics like jokes to create an image that's not you.

"The problem with superficial jokes is that they don't address insecurity underneath," she says. Having a social butterfly friend help keep the conversation sparkling can please the crowd while keeping you true to yourself.



Love everywhere

Don't hold your breath for a great relationship to fall into your lap, says Tim Strickfaden, founder of Chicago-based Stricken Matchmaking Solutions: "You may be waiting a very long time."

Use traditional face-to-face techniques instead of the usual texting, dating sites and Facebook stalking. Strickfaden even suggests carrying business cards with only your name or initials printed to discretely slip to hotties that may feel similarly but lack the guts to speak up.

In the event of any wrongdoing, come clean

1 Even if you haven't made mistakes of colossal proportions, a la Tiger Woods, being upfront about past flubs can make you see more human—and likable. "Come clean about everything," said Jill Bremer, a Chicago-based image consultant. "And consider that the final word."

Let your friends weigh in on your reputation

2 Conducting an annual review of your image and allowing your nearest and dearest to pipe up may be a little awkward, but will prevent you from falling into a reputation rut. Honing your image every year with an annual review "conveys you care about yourself," says Bremer.

Refine the most noticeable traits

3 Posture and eye contact are outward displays of inward character traits—namely, overall confidence and self-assuredness. Regardless of whether your companions are professional or personal, others are drawn to those with confidence. "Being well-groomed doesn't hurt either," Bremer says.

Revamp your image, even superficially

4 For some, an image makeover comes from within. ("This traffic really isn't so bad; I can easily keep my cool.") Others may transform only after an outward change in appearance. ("A sharp-dressed guy like me wouldn't succumb to road rage on the Kennedy.") Bremer suggests finding out which approach works for you.

Discover your own brand and build it

5 Your favorite store brands never let you down, so make sure your personal image is just as reliable and consistent to others, says Bremer. However, take care to make sure it's a mix of who you are and what they're looking for.

JACKIE CHAN



THE SPY NEXT DOOR

PART SPY. PART BABYSITTER.
ALL HERO.

BILLY RAY CYRUS GEORGE LOPEZ

WRITTEN BY JONATHAN BERNSTEIN & JAMES GREER AND GREGORY POIRIER DIRECTED BY BRIAN LEVANT

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FOR SEQUENCES OF ACTION VIOLENCE
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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

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MOTION PICTURE DIRECTORY

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G - General audience PG - Parental guidance suggested PG-13 - Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13
R - Restricted, under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

600 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily &

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **AMC Select Nine** (PG-13) 1:50,4:50,7:50,10:50
- **It's Complicated** (R) 1:00,4:00,7:15,10:10
- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) 1:15,4:20,7:30,10:35
- **AMC Select Up in the Air** (R) 2:00,5:00,8:00,11:00
- **Avatar** (PG-13) 2:15,6:00,9:45
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 3:15,7:00,10:45
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 1:40,4:40,7:40,10:40
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 6:45,10:00
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 1:30,4:10

LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

2828 North Clark St., Chicago
(773) 509-4949

- **Nine** (PG-13) 1:45,4:35,7:25,10:10
- **A Single Man** (R) 2:00,4:40,7:40,10:15
- **Crazy Heart** (R) 1:55,4:45,7:30,10:05
- **Broken Embraces** (R) 1:15,4:10,7:05,10:00
- **Young Victoria** (PG) 1:30,4:15,7:10,9:40
- **Fantastic Fox** (PG) 1:50,4:40,7:15,9:30
- **A Serious Man** (R) 4:20,9:50
- **An Education** (PG-13) 1:40,7:00

CITY NORTH 14 (KERASOTES)

2600 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

- **It's Complicated** (R) ★ 1:00,4:00,6:50,9:50
- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ 12:30,1:15,1:45,4:15,4:45,5:15,7:15,7:45,8:15,10:15,10:45
- **Squeakquel** (PG) ★ 12:45,1:30,2:00,3:10,3:50,4:40,5:30,6:10,7:20,8:00,8:40,9:45
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 12:00,2:20,3:30,6:00,7:00,9:30,10:30
- **Avatar** (PG-13) 3:00,6:30,10:00
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 4:10,10:10
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 12:10,2:40,5:00,7:30,9:55
- **Brothers** (R) 1:50,4:50,7:40,10:50
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 12:20,3:20,6:20,9:20
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:10,7:10
- **2012** (PG-13) 10:20 P.M.

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ 4:30,7:10,9:50
- **Nine** (PG-13) 5:00,7:15,9:30
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 5:00,7:20,9:45
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 4:50,7:30,10:10

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) 1:15,4:05,7:00,9:45
- **Squeakquel** (PG) 1:00,2:10,3:15,4:35,5:30,7:00,7:45,9:05,9:55
- **Avatar** (PG-13) 1:30,2:45,5:10,6:10,8:40,9:30
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 1:35,4:25,6:45,9:10
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 1:05,2:00,3:25,4:15,5:40,7:55,10:00
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 1:10,4:00,6:50,9:50
- **Armored** (PG-13) 2:30,4:45,7:20,9:25
- **Ninja Assassin** (R) 1:00,3:20,5:35,7:50,10:00
- **Planet 51** (PG) 1:55,4:10
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:20,4:05,6:55,9:40
- **AMC Select Precious: Novel** (R) 6:40,9:15
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:45,4:30,7:15,9:55
- **2012** (PG-13) 6:20,9:35

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
312-846-2800

- **Panic Strts** (NR) 6:00 P.M.
- **Where the Wild** (PG) 6:00,8:00
- **Gogoi Bordello** (NR) 8:00 P.M.

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 2:05,5:40,8:20
- **2012** (PG-13) 2:15,5:25,8:15
- **Planet 51** (PG) 2:00,4:10,6:20,8:30
- **Old Dogs** (PG) 2:05,6:30
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 4:10,8:40

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

- **Bad Lieutenant** (R) 7:00,9:30
- **Mr Hulots Hol.** (NR) 5:05 P.M.
- **Police, Adjct.** (NR) 5:00,7:20,9:40

PIPERS ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily

- **3 Idiots** (NR) 2:30,6:00
- **AMC Select The Road** (R) 2:00,4:30,7:00
- **AMC Select Me and Orson** (PG-13) 4:50 P.M.
- **AMC Select Precious: Novel** (R) 2:40,5:10,7:40
- **AMC Select The Hurt Locker** (R) 1:50,7:20

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street
888-AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily

AMC Select - The best specialty films

- **AMC Select Nine** (PG-13) 10:35,1:30,4:35,7:40,10:40
- **It's Complicated** (R) 10:40,11:40,1:40,2:40,4:40,5:40,7:45,8:45,10:50
- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) 10:30,12:45,1:45,3:55,4:55,7:15,8:15,10:30
- **Squeakquel** (PG) 10:50,1:20,3:45,6:10,8:40
- **AMC Select Up in the Air** (R) 11:10,12:10,2:05,3:05,5:05,6:05,8:05,9:05,10:50
- **Avatar** (PG-13) 5:00,9:00
- **AMC Select Young Victoria** (PG) 11:20,2:15,5:10,7:50,10:35
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 12:50,3:40
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 11:00,12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,7:00,8:00,10:00,10:45
- **AMC Select Crazy Heart** (R) 11:05,1:10,2:10,4:15,5:15,7:20,8:20,10:20
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 11:15,2:00,4:50,7:35,10:10
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 1:35,4:35,7:40,10:55
- **Brothers** (R) 10:55,1:55,7:30,10:15
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 10:45,1:50,5:00,8:10
- **AMC Select Precious: Novel** (R) 4:45 P.M.
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:05,4:10,7:25,10:25
- **2012** (PG-13) 1:00 P.M.

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES)

7000 Carpenter Rd., Skokie
(800) 326-3264 #2309

- **It's Complicated** (R) ★ 12:20,1:20,3:10,4:20,6:20,7:10,9:10,10:05
- **Nine** (PG-13) ★ 12:50,4:00,6:50,9:45
- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ 12:15,1:15,3:15,4:15,6:15,7:15,9:15,10:15
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 12:40,2:10,3:40,5:00,6:40,7:40,9:20,10:15
- **Squeakquel** (PG) ★ 12:10,1:30,2:30,3:50,4:50,6:10,7:20,9:40
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 12:00,1:00,3:30,4:30,7:00,8:10,10:30
- **Avatar** (PG-13) 3:00,6:30,10:00
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 2:40,5:20,8:00,10:25
- **The Road** (R) 4:10,9:30
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 3:20,6:55,9:55
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
- **Brothers** (R) 1:10,6:45

(continued)

CROWN VILLAGE 18 (KERASOTES) (continued)

- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:40,4:00,7:45,10:40
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:50,4:45,7:50,10:45
- **2012** (PG-13) 9:00 P.M.

WEBSTER PLACE (KERASOTES)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago
(800) 326-3264 #1641

- **It's Complicated** (R) ★ 12:50,1:30,3:50,4:30,6:50,7:30,9:50,10:40
- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ 12:15,1:15,3:15,4:15,6:15,7:15,9:15,10:15
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 2:00,2:30,4:50,5:20,7:40,8:10,10:20,10:45
- **Squeakquel** (PG) ★ 12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,9:40
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 12:00,3:30,7:00,10:30
- **Avatar** (PG-13) 3:00,6:30,10:00
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 1:00,4:00,7:10,10:25
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 12:40,3:40,6:40,9:45

SHOWPLACE 14 - GALEWOOD CROSSINGS (KERASOTES)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1646

- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ 12:45,1:15,3:45,4:15,6:45,7:15,9:45,10:15
- **Squeakquel** (PG) ★ 12:10,1:50,2:20,2:50,4:20,4:50,5:20,6:50,7:20,7:50,9:10,9:40,10:10
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 12:00,3:30,7:00,10:30
- **Avatar** (PG-13) 3:00,6:30,10:00
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 2:00,4:40,7:30,10:15
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 1:00,4:00,7:10,10:20
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 1:40,4:10,6:40,9:00
- **Armored** (PG-13) 12:30,2:40,5:15,8:00,10:35
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:30,4:30,7:40,10:40
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 1:30,4:30,7:40,10:40
- **2012** (PG-13) 6:10,9:50
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 1:20,3:50

CICERO SHOWPLACE 14 (KERASOTES)

4779 W. Cermak
(800) 326-3264 #1644

- **It's Complicated** (R) ★ 1:45,4:40,7:30,10:20
- **Nine** (PG-13) ★ 12:50,3:50,6:50,9:50
- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ 1:15,4:15,6:45,7:15,9:45,10:15
- **Squeakquel** (PG) ★ 11:50,12:20,1:50,2:20,2:50,4:20,4:50,5:20,7:20,9:40
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 12:00,3:30,7:00,10:30
- **Avatar** (PG-13) 3:00,6:30,10:00
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 2:30,5:10,7:50,10:45
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 12:15,3:20,6:20,9:30
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 1:40,4:10,6:40,9:00
- **Armored** (PG-13) 12:30,2:45,5:15
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 1:00,4:00,7:10,10:10
- **Twilight: Moon** (PG-13) 7:40,10:40
- **2012** (PG-13) 1:10,4:30,8:00
- **Christmas Carol** (PG) 8:00,10:35

SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION

Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago
(312) 564-2104

- **It's Complicated** (R) ★ 12:15,1:40,3:15,4:40,6:15,7:45,9:30,10:45
- **Nine** (PG-13) ★ 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:10
- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ 1:15,2:10,4:15,5:10,7:15,8:15,10:15,11:15
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 12:10,1:50,3:20,4:30,6:20,7:40,9:20,10:40
- **Squeakquel** (PG) ★ 12:20,2:40,5:00,7:20,9:50
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 12:00,12:30,3:00,3:30,4:00,6:30,7:00,7:30,10:00,10:30,11:00
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 2:50,5:20,8:00,10:50
- **Young Victoria** (PG) 2:00,4:50,7:50,10:20
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 12:40,3:40,6:45,9:45
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 1:20,4:10,6:50,9:10
- **The Blind Side** (PG-13) 12:50,3:45,6:40,9:40

VIP Premium 21+

- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ **VIP Premium 21+** 2:10,5:10,8:15,11:15
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) **VIP Premium 21+** 12:00,3:30,7:00,10:30

OAK PARK LAKE CINEMAS (CLASSIC)

1022 Lake Street
630-444-FILM #560

- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ 1:45,4:30,7:15,10:00
- **It's Complicated** (R) ★ 1:35,4:10,6:45,9:20
- **Squeakquel** (PG) ★ 1:05,3:10,5:15,7:20,9:25
- **Up in the Air** (R) ★ 12:05,2:30,4:55,7:20,9:45
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 11:50,3:10,6:30,9:50
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 1:30,4:20,6:40,9:00
- **Princess-Frog** (G) 1:45,4:00,6:15,8:30

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- **Squeakquel** (PG) ★ 12:25,2:55,5:15,7:35,9:55
- **Avatar** (PG-13) 12:35,4:10,6:20,7:55
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 1:30,5:10,8:50
- **Avatar 3D** (PG-13) 11:45,3:20,7:00,10:30
- **Broken Embraces** (R) ★ 1:10,4:20,7:25,10:20
- **Crazy Heart** (R) ★ 11:40,2:15,4:40,7:30,10:10
- **Did You Hear** (PG-13) 11:30,2:05,10:10
- **Invictus** (PG-13) 12:45,3:55,7:05,10:15
- **It's Complicated** (R) ★ 12:10,1:35,3:00,4:30,5:50,7:20,8:40,10:05
- **Nine** (PG-13) ★ 1:20,4:05,6:55,9:45
- **Sherlock Holmes** (PG-13) ★ 1:140,12:40,1:40,2:40,3:40,4:40,5:40,6:40,7:40,8:45,9:



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HAPPY B-DAY!

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan.19

Four planets in your sign are turning you into Superman. You'll seduce four women in one night, possibly at the same time. You'll lure that gorgeous C-List guy celebrity back to your lair for a night of Hollywood lust. Things are looking up.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You and your partner could be in different head spaces. For the first time in a long time, you're willing to explore that scary "commitment" word. Meanwhile, your honey could be going through a quarterlife or midlife crisis, craving a major change. Venus says "oops."



Pisces

Feb. 19-March 20

You're finishing up a lot of stuff with old friends or lovers, dealing with things you should have settled long ago. Better late than never. A moon opposition is showing your life will improve after you expel some negative energy and vampire types from your life.



Aries

March 21-April 19

You're examining your relationship under a microscope. A moon opposition is increasing the paranoia and suspicion. You could be wondering if your honey is secretly mentally unstable or riddled with debt, worrying that you'll learn about this the hard way.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Venus has you in a frisky, flirty mood. You'll sidle up to a stranger at a bar and make a saucy confession. Or you'll get in touch with a platonic friend and try to change your status to "friends with benefits." With the planets in your favor, you could get lucky.



Gemini

May 21-June 21

Suddenly you're all about money, thanks to Saturn. Focusing on traumatic dating experiences is so 2009. Now you're into expanding the portfolio, solidifying your financial stability, and placing your chess piece in a more powerful career position. Watch out, world.



Cancer

June 22-July 22

You've been whining for weeks, which can be very

therapeutic. But Mars says grin and bear it. Your romantic situation may be weird, but that's OK. Ninety-nine percent of relationships have a serious weirdness factor. Take comfort in knowing that you're not alone.



Leo

July 23-Aug. 22

You could become magically attracted to someone who just happens to have lots of money. The sun is highlighting the attractiveness of people in your social circle who have some extra cash. If you should happen to sleep with one of them, well, good for you.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Venus is filling you with the urge to become more domestic. You'll knit an ugly sweater for your boyfriend or buy your girlfriend a trashy piece of jewelry that she'll pretend to love. You're into settling down and showing your love.



Libra

Sept. 23-Oct. 23

You want to get married; your honey wants to date other people. You're ready for a kid; your partner has decided he wants to remain child-free. A moon square is turning your love life into a funky Bizarro World version of the relationship you used to know.



Scorpio

Oct. 24-Nov. 21

You could discover that someone unexpected has a hot crush on you. A co-worker might be harboring some hidden lust. A neighbor could be peeping at you through your curtains. Venus is stirring up the libido of everyone who surrounds you.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

An emo Jupiter is increasing your drama queen tendencies. OK, so your parents suck, your apartment is filled with unsavory creatures, and you haven't been laid since 2009. 2010 is still new. Anything might happen.



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	7		6		1		4	
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4	2	9	6	3	5	8	7	1
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1	3	8	4	9	7	6	2	5
8	4	7	3	2	6	1	5	9
9	6	5	1	7	8	4	3	2
3	1	2	9	5	4	7	8	6
7	5	4	2	8	1	9	6	3
2	9	1	7	6	3	5	4	8
6	8	3	5	4	9	2	1	7

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

R	I	M	A	S	P	S	M	O	V	E	S
C	O	N	E	S	C	A	M	A	S	E	A
O	V	A	L	S	A	R	I	T	O	R	T
D	E	N	O	M	I	N	A	T	O	R	T
A	R	E	N	A	S	E	V	O	K	E	
			N	I	C	K	E	N	A	B	L
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B	O	R	A	O	P	A	L	G	A	L	E
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C	A	T	I	N	H	E	R	I	T	A	N
A	S	H	E	N	A	R	E	A	C	L	A
P	E	E	V	E	S	O	A	R	H	A	R
P	A	R	E	D	E	S	P	Y	O	W	E

ACROSS

- 1 _ up; ended a phone call
- 5 Personnel
- 10 Oaf
- 14 Big continent
- 15 "Hi" alternative
- 16 At _; relaxed
- 17 Religious group
- 18 Meat jelly
- 19 Infuriate
- 20 Replace with something of higher priority
- 22 Bullfighter
- 24 Misfortune
- 25 Chief religion of Indonesia
- 26 Chinese peninsula
- 29 Board thickness
- 30 Medicinal tablets
- 34 Exclusively
- 35 "My _ Sal"
- 36 Bring peace to
- 37 Long, long _
- 38 "... Rex"; play by Sophocles
- 40 Lamb's lament
- 41 Renter
- 43 Gear tooth
- 44 Jewels
- 45 Luge vehicles
- 46 Lend a hand
- 47 One venerated in a mosque
- 48 Signified
- 50 Defunct airline
- 51 Give a right to
- 54 Word on a mat
- 58 Gloomy
- 59 Mightily
- 61 Ahmadinejad's country
- 62 "... Karenina"
- 63 Prefix for wave or chip
- 64 Turns target
- 65 Lunch or dinner
- 66 Made of a cereal grain
- 67 Boys

DOWN

- 1 Door fastener
- 2 Addict
- 3 Pleasant
- 4 Entrance
- 5 Oval or square

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21				22		23			
				24				25						
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58						59		60			61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 6 PSAT or SAT | 26 Castle surroundings | 46 Red blood cell deficiency |
| 7 Mont Blanc, Matterhorn | 27 Heavenly being | 47 Hole-making tool |
| 8 Poorly constructed | 28 Exact duplicate | 49 Hertz rival |
| 9 _ point; center of activity | 29 Cushion | 50 Wood joint part |
| 10 Made of porcelain | 31 Can wrapper | 51 Dutch cheese |
| 11 Placed down | 32 Pack animal | 52 Zero |
| 12 Norway's capital | 33 Crush | 53 Albacore |
| 13 Antlered animal | 35 Understand | 54 Telegram |
| 21 Cow's remark | 36 Flea or roach | 55 Killer whale |
| 23 VCR insertions | 38 Beginning | 56 Housekeeper |
| 25 Not permitted | 39 Pea casing | 57 Finalizes |
| | 42 Naval bigwig | 60 Go on stage |
| | 44 Extremely cold | |

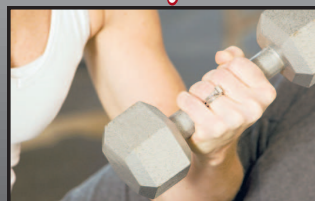
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Leighton Meester performs in Los Angeles.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Meester hits town

What makes Leighton Meester nervous?

Sex scenes on her CW drama "Gossip Girl"? Performing songs from her yet-to-be released album in front of an audience? Public speaking?

"My little brother driving," responded Meester, laughing.

The 23-year-old actress/singer, who was in Chicago for the first time Friday for her performance at The Underground (56 W. Illinois St.), said she doesn't really get nervous before live shows. More like excited.

"I like dancing anyway, and I love my music, so it's not that hard," Meester said. "It's fun. I'm like best friends with my dancers, so it comes easily. There's nothing like performing live. It's so wonderful and fun."

Like her "Gossip Girl" character, Blair Waldorf, Meester is known for her



**about
last night**

LUIS ARROYAVE

larroyave@tribune.com

fashion sense. She said she enjoys her trendsetter status and admitted her music career has played a role in her wardrobe choices.

"I think I've become more in tune to a casual side that I never really knew," said Meester, who is featured on the Cobra Starship song "Good Girls Go Bad."

"Fashion is one of the ways I express myself. I love it. I really live for it. I know it's not important to everybody, but I find a lot

of joy in it."

Meester's album, which still doesn't have a release date, will have an electro-pop sound and will feature cameos from R&B crooner Robin Thicke and workaholic rapper Lil Wayne.

"He's amazing," she said of Wayne. "The song ['Make It Rain'] is very club friendly. It's hot."

FOR MORE LUIS, VISIT WWW.CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ABOUTLASTNIGHT

Pitbull's bark provides enough bite

When Pitbull's songs come on the radio, which is pretty often these days, the Miami rapper doesn't turn up the volume, sing along or bob his head to the beat.

He changes the station.

"I get sick of myself," said Pitbull on Thursday before performing at the Playboy New Year's Eve party at the Hilton (720 S. Michigan Ave.). "By the time the record hits the radio, by the time it becomes a big record, you know how many times I heard that record in the studio? So it's like '[Forget] Pitbull.'"

Don't mistake his self-deprecation as a sign of lacking confidence. He knows he had a big year and he's predicting even bigger things for 2010.

"You know, 2009 was my setting-up-a-platform-and-proving-everybody-wrong year," said Pitbull, real name Armando Perez. "2010 is my takeover year, with God's help."

Could we see him follow Jennifer Lopez and Venus and Serena Williams to become the next South Florida celebrity to buy a stake in the Miami Dolphins?

"I haven't been approached by ownership yet. But I'm a Cuban guy. I drive a hard bargain," he said, laughing.

He also says the Miami rap scene isn't always taken seriously by outsiders.

"People were like 'Oh, that's a booty-shaking city; there ain't no rappers down there,'" he said, which did allow him to stay under the radar. "While everybody is trying to come in through the front door, I slid in through the back door. By the time they get in, I'm in the kitchen cooking, asking them what they want to eat."



« Pitbull
GETTY
IMAGES
FILE

SIGHTINGS

» NBA Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing and Yankees Center fielder Curtis Granderson hung out separately at The Underground on Saturday.

» Before her Grey Goose-sponsored show at The Underground, Meester shopped at Sofia Vintage Boutique and dined at Sunda. She stayed at the James Hotel during her visit.



» The Blackhawks' Patrick Kane, Adam Burish and Playboy's Miss January, Jaime Edmondson, attended Thursday's Playboy party at the Hilton.



» Bears linebacker and University of Arizona alum Lance Briggs hung out at Uncle Fatty's Rum Resort on Wednesday and watched his Wildcats lose 33-0 to the Nebraska Cornhuskers in the Holiday Bowl.

ABOUT THIS WEEK

» WWE star Ted DiBiase Jr. signs DVD copies of his new movie, "The Marine 2," Wednesday at the f.y.e. store on East Randolph St.

» Lady Gaga performs Friday-Sunday at Rosemont Theatre.

» "Whatcha Say" singer Jason Derülo performs Saturday at Lumen nightclub.



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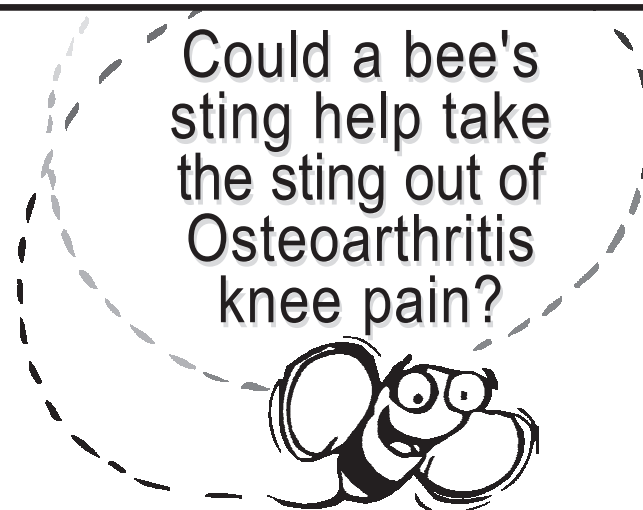
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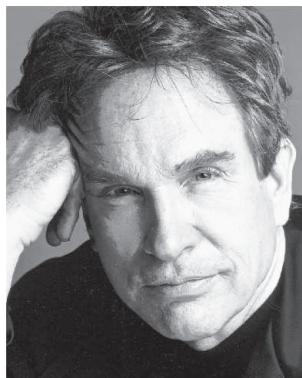
Chicago Park District
Timothy J. Mitchell, General Superintendent & CEO

red hot

Chef Bobby Flay (from left), White House chef Cristeta Comerford, host Alton Brown, first lady Michelle Obama, chef Mario Batali and chef Emeril Lagasse at the White House for a special "Iron Chef America." The first lady revealed the secret ingredient for the episode. **FOOD NETWORK**

What a surprise—Griffin swears on air

Kathy Griffin's resolutions probably don't include cleaning up her vocabulary. The comedian dropped the F-bomb while co-hosting CNN's NYE show. Last year she joked about male genitalia, but called it something else, on the same show. Griffin—goofing Thursday night with Anderson Cooper about the "balloon boy" controversy—mispronounced Falcon Heene's name, prompting Cooper to respond, "You're terrible." CNN has apologized for Griffin's profanity.



Very busy Beatty?

Author Peter Biskind calculates that Warren Beatty has had sex with "12,775 women, give or take, a figure that does not include daytime quickies," The New York Post reports on what it calls an authorized

biography of Beatty. Beatty already has fired back, saying the book is full of bunk and was not authorized.

McConaughey adds to brood

Matthew McConaughey and his girlfriend, Camila Alves, have welcomed a second child, a baby girl named Vida who was born Sunday, **people.com** reports. The couple also have a son, Levi, 17 months.

'Idol' finalist gets hitched

Jason Castro (right) is a married man, **people.com** reports. The 22-year-old dreadlocked singer-songwriter, who finished fourth on Season 7 of "American Idol," wed girlfriend Mandy Mayhall near Dallas. "Yesterday I married the girl of my dreams," Castro tweeted Sunday.



GETTY IMAGES FILE



Michelle Obama showed off her good taste on "Iron Chef America" on Sunday night. The first lady revealed to Mario Batali, Bobby Flay, Emeril Lagasse and White House executive chef Cristeta Comerford that the secret ingredient for the cooking competition was

anything in the White House gardens. There was no sign that family dog Bo had left any surprises in the garden area, thank goodness.

Comerford and Flay, who were paired up for the battle, won the competition.



\$1,000,000,000

"Avatar" has surpassed that box office dollar figure worldwide, becoming the fifth movie in history to bring in more than \$1 billion. "Avatar" reached that milestone faster than any other movie, doing so in just under three weeks of release.

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